BAKEMONOGATARI

14

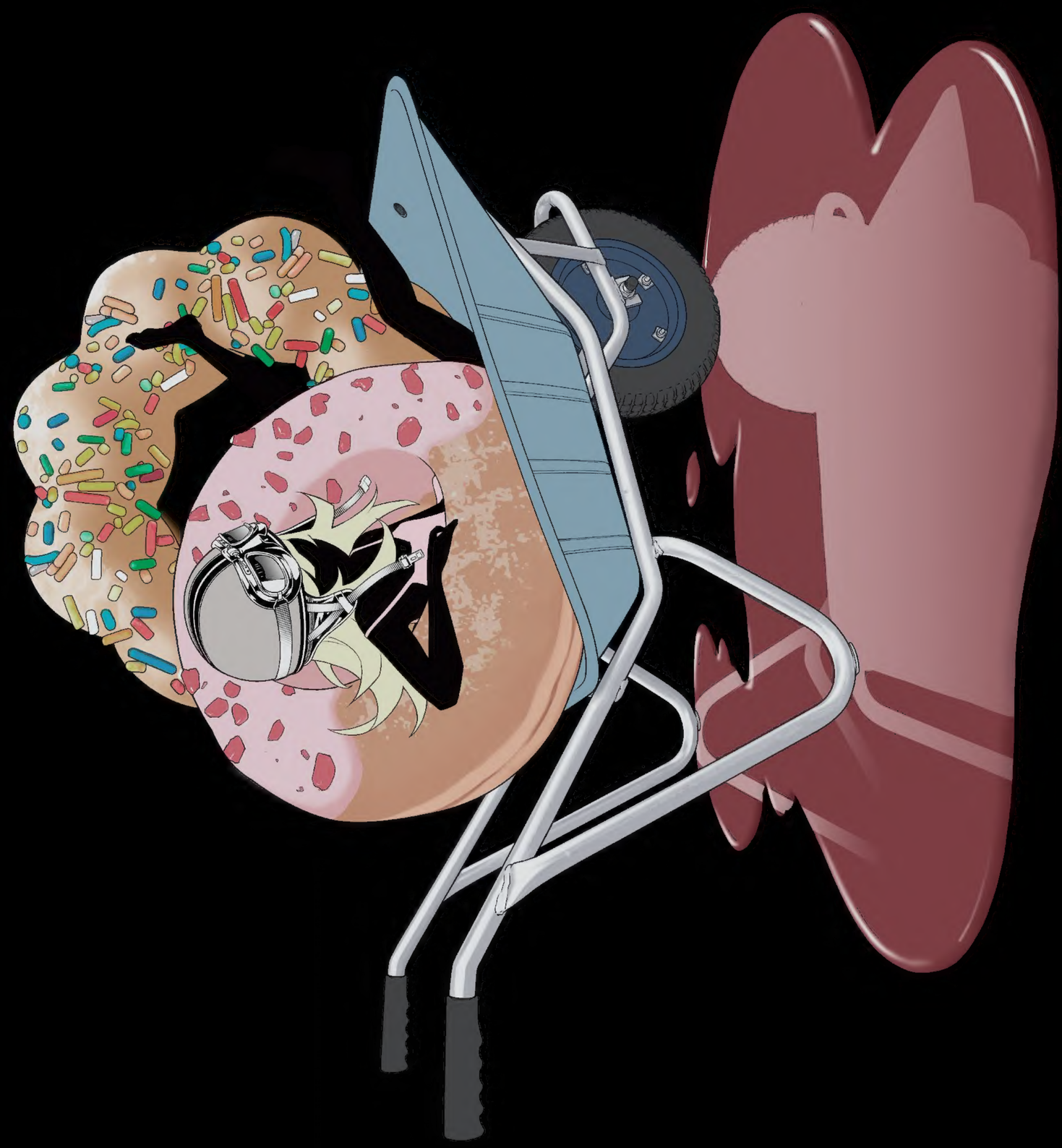
OH!GREAT

Original Story:
NISIOISIN

Original Character
Design: VOFAN

BAKEMONOGATARI

14



BAKEMONOGATARI

OH!GREAT

ORIGINAL STORY:

NISIOISIN

14

ORIGINAL CHARACTER
DESIGN: VOFAN

MAIN CHARACTERS

Koyomi Araragi

A boy who became Kiss-Shot's thrall after saving her. He now fights to become human again and to put a stop to Kiss-Shot.

Tsubasa Hanekawa

Koyomi's friend who goes to the same school as him, and an honor student that few honors could sufficiently describe. She's dedicated to supporting Koyomi without any regard for her own safety.

Kiss-Shot Acerola-Orion Heart-Under-Blade

A vampire powerful enough to be called the "king of aberrations" who Koyomi saved from near-certain death. Thanks to Koyomi, she has now returned to her original form.

Seishiro Shishirui

Kiss-Shot's first thrall. He took his own life.

Mèmè Oshino

A self-described expert on aberrations who appeared in front of Koyomi one day.

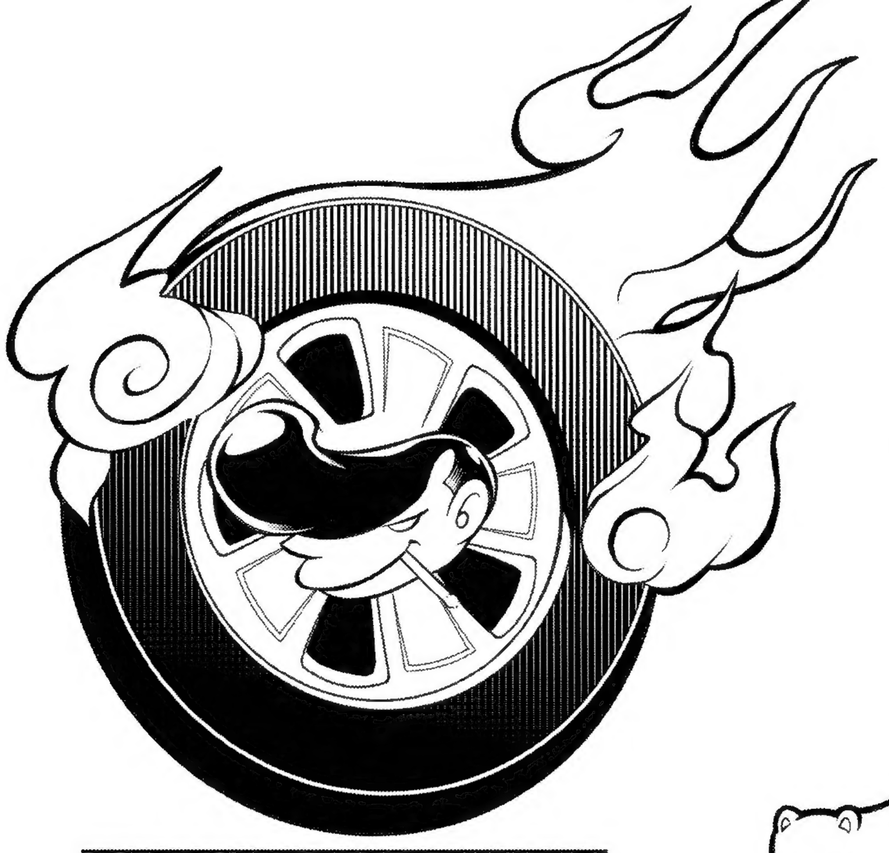
THE STORY SO FAR

During spring break, Koyomi Araragi saved the critically injured vampire Kiss-Shot Acerola-Orion Heart-Under-Blade, becomes her thrall, and successfully returns her to full strength. However, he realizes that his actions were mistaken by human standards, and the conflict this creates for him ultimately makes him resolved to defeat Kiss-Shot. As part of his preparations for battle, he asks Hanekawa if he can fondle her breasts, only to grow embarrassed and disengage when she complies.

Chapter 0

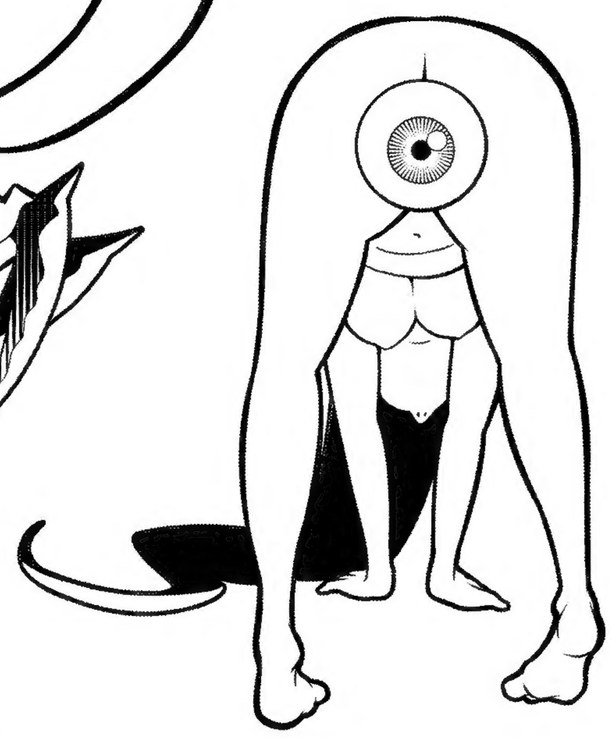
Koyomi Vamp

BOOK DESIGN VEIA



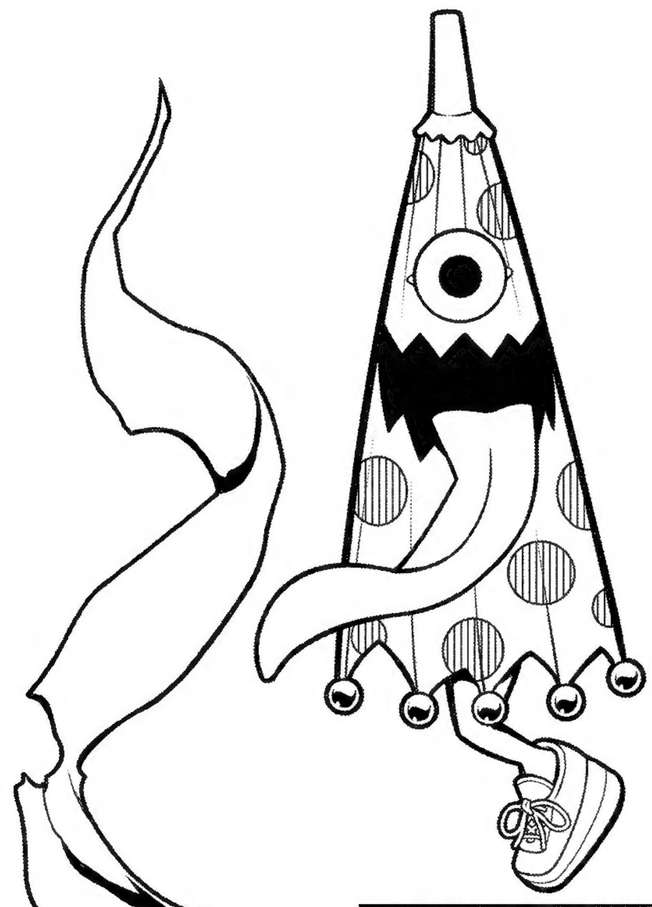
FLAME WHEEL

SICKLE WEASEL



HOLE EYE

ROKURO-NECK



KARA-UMBRELLA GHOST

VAMPIRE

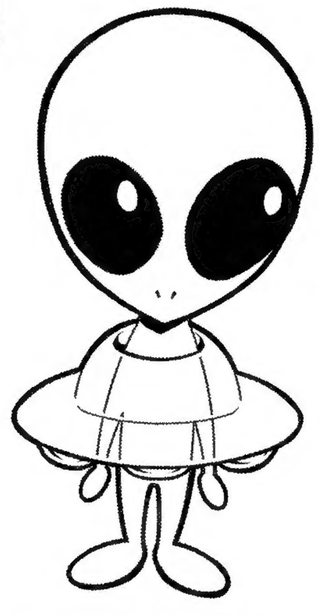
JORO SPIDER

ZASHIKI-WARASHI

BAKEMONOGATARI

FLYING COTTON-CLOTH (12M)

NINETAIL-FOX



GREY

RUB RUB
RUB RUB
RUB RUB

...
good.

It's fine.
In fact, it
feels...

Uh...um...
This doesn't
hurt at all,
does it?

Whoa...
They're
not even
remotely
stiff.

What an
angle...

You
know,

in its
own way...
this isn't
so bad.

I'M SORRY, MISS HANE-KAWA!

YES ?!

TWIIITCH

owii
upper pitcher

Araragi ?

I can even feel her collar-bone...

KUB
KRIK
RU

...

...?

Bzzt!

MEMAJSUN

Um... It's Venus— right? ...Or is it Mars?

I know this is sudden, but I have a pop quiz for you.

What is the closest planet to Earth?

It's on Earth's side for longer.

But due to the relationship between their orbital periods, Mercury is first.

Mercury
Venus
Earth
Mars

It's Venus if you go by simple dis-tance.

Appar-ently— it's Mercury.

But even though Mercury is that close to us,

we've barely explored it at all.

It's the same with people, right? The person you spend the most time with is the person closest to you... right?

Oh...

That makes sense. I never thought of it that way.

Voyager's closest approach to Jupiter took place in 1979... so it wasn't until over thirty years later that we got to Mercury.

It wasn't until 2011 that MESSENGER, meant to probe Mercury, first entered its orbit.

HUH ?!

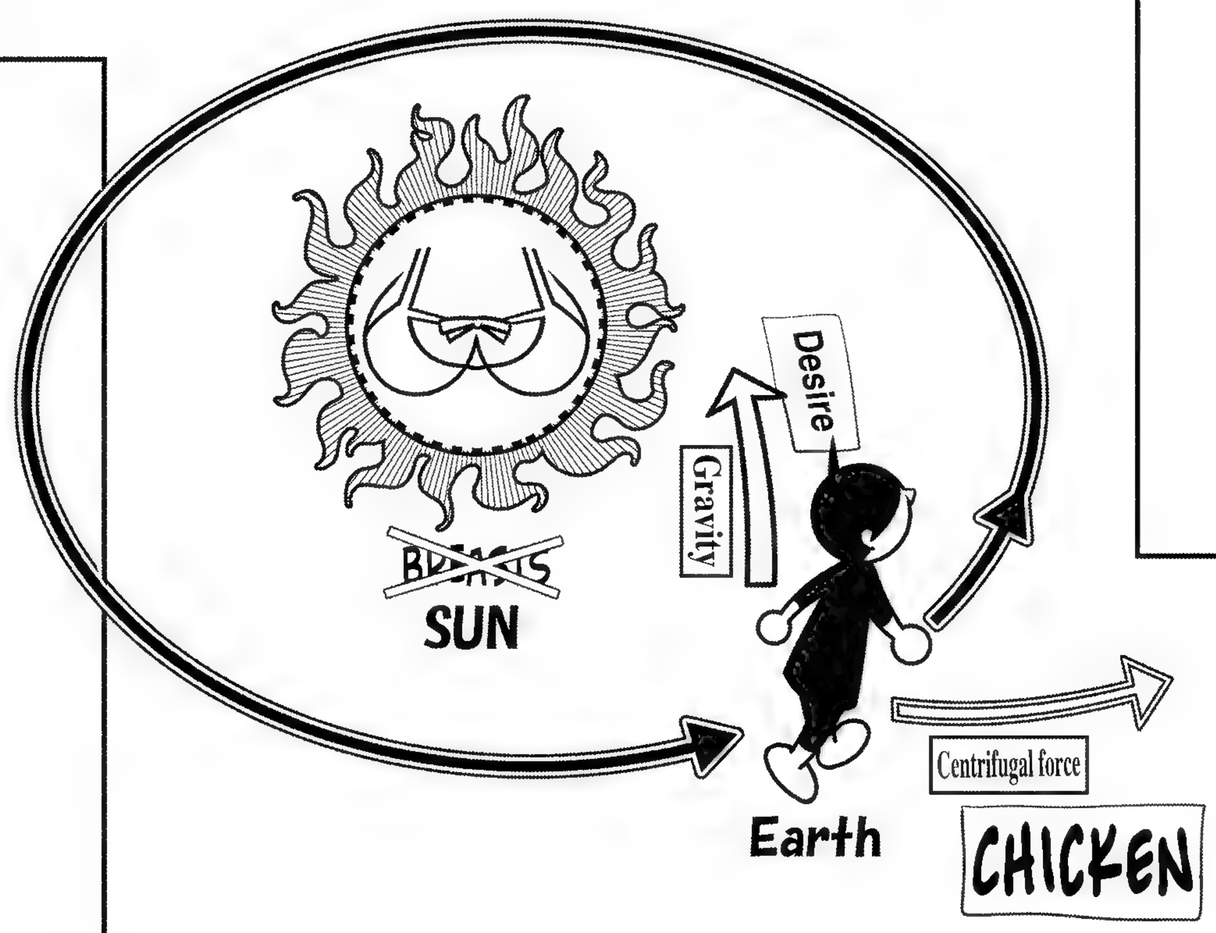
I guess maybe you could say...

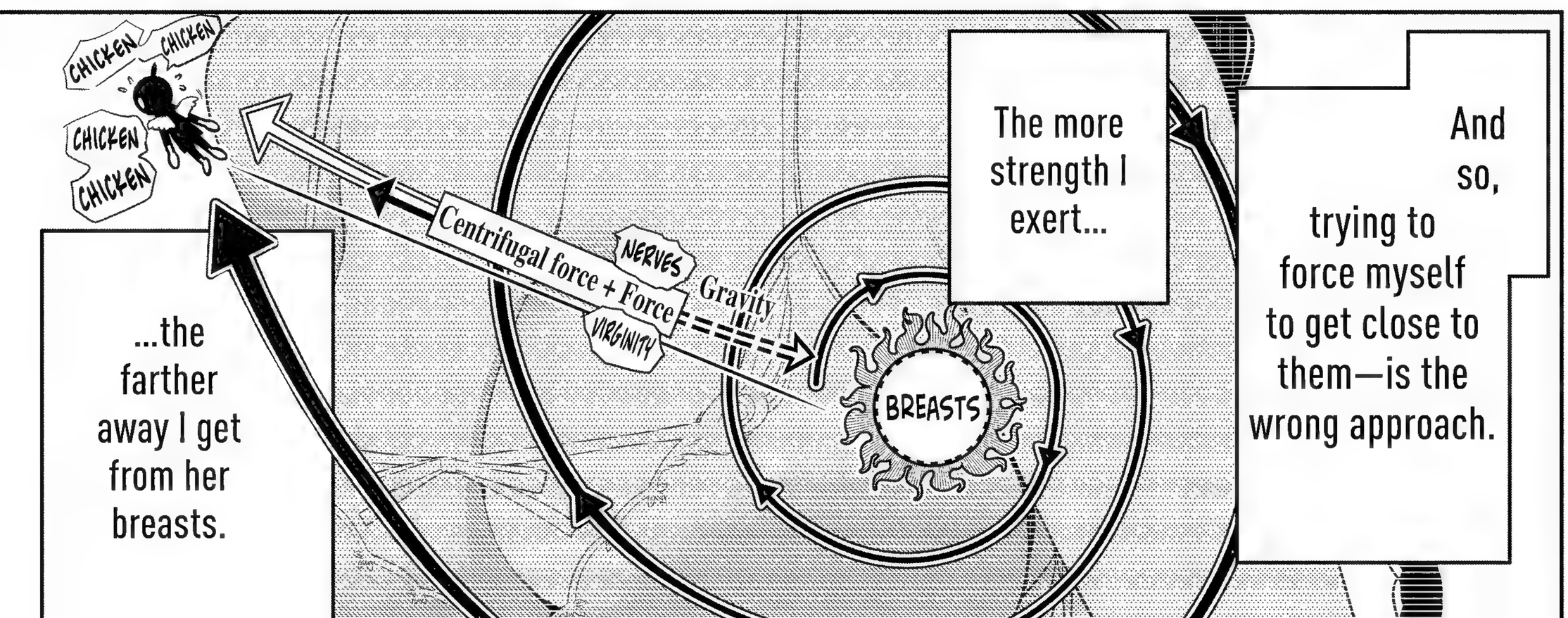
It's kind of like your relationship to my breasts?

Maybe there's a really significant reason that you can't come into contact with them.

Her breasts draw me in with an irresistible force...

...and at the same time, the inertia created from being in orbit around her breasts consistently acts upon me to keep me away from them.





The more strength I exert...

And so, trying to force myself to get close to them—is the wrong approach.

...the farther away I get from her breasts.

You have to *decelerate.*

If anything, you have to *cut down on it*—

...

It's not about adding force.

It's the opposite.

That's why... getting to Mercury, whose orbit sits within Earth's own—is so very difficult.

Even I knew that.

Hanekawa wasn't talking about Mercury here.

Of course,

It's far harder to decrease force than to increase it...

I understood that much.

what she wanted me to know now, at this point in time, wasn't that...

But...what Hanekawa really wanted to say to me—

HUH ?!

Have you intentionally been inching my shoulder straps outward all this time?

OH, NO, I WOULD NEVER!

By the way, Araragi.

Or at least, I thought as much...

Falling ?

Araragi.

...So that's your approach ?

Or am I mistaken ?

BLUP

TUG

I'd hate it a lot more if you got them off without me noticing.

My shoulder straps are in the way, right?

HANE-KAWA?!

WH—

When I thought back to this moment much later...

...I realized...

...

...this was Hanekawa making a prediction.

The only way to get close is to fall.

The greater the strength, the farther you get away.

Right ?

About my future ...

...with her.

It's kind of funny that way.

It was also a terrifyingly prescient prediction ...

...of how the fight I'd soon have with Kiss-Shot...

...would end.

The more excited you get— the further you stray.

From truth.

From victory.

Search for something beyond sight at the bottom of that cold, dark sea of thought.

Sink.

Sink deep.

—So calm your mind.

And then, at last—you'll arrive.

She then said...

Examine every single piece of information.

Are you missing something?

Are you letting your assumptions lead you astray?

No matter how complicated and tangled it may be,

that labyrinth will always contain a solution.

That's what she told me.

If...

...there were some way for me to do that—

That must be...

...how Hanekawa *lives*.

...

That...

...is how Hanekawa thinks.

No.

I truly believe—that it would be all I ever need.

I could only imagine the joyous life I would lead.

If I could sink down into the depths with Hanekawa.

But...

...that's exactly why.

It's why when I spend time with Hanekawa...

...I get scared.

Wouldn't it keep Hanekawa from ever being able to return from that darkness?

Would that not become a burden?

if I kept clinging to Hanekawa's unfathomable benevo-lence—

If I became depen-dent on her—

So, I'm in no place to be acting high and mighty.

Well.

That said, I also messed up just now.

—I can't help but think that.

I get the feeling we both got a little too excited.

Especially considering we're friends.

Hane-kawa...

...Steadily.

One step at a time.

I should take this... slower.

Yeah.

FWOOSH

I don't see an online back rub feeling very nice.

TO BE CONTINUED ON OUR WEBSITE !

Y-YES!

You've had enough?

THAT'S, AH, 60 SEC- WELL ONDS! AH !

Thank you very much!

BOOM

KRSH

GA-KRAKK

Now that you've made a girl do this much for you, you wouldn't dare lose—

would you?

I will win!

I swear it to you, on your chest!

No, you don't need to do anything on my chest.

POP

FWOOSH

BOOM

GA-KRAKAKAK

GRAKKL

ドドドドド

ゴゴゴゴゴ

GRRNG

Don't you dare say a thing, Hanekawa.

But once.

...Hey.

I will apologize to thee...

...but once.

My servant.

I came to understand thy feelings.

While I wished to sleep, I forced myself to think.

I believe— I had not paid thee the consideration due a former human.

I believe— I acted thoughtlessly.

Return to my side.

BAKEMONOGATARI

I had my life saved by thee.

My servant.

ォォォ

ォォォ

ォォォォォォォォォ

ォォォ...

Rather than return to being human, spend eternity ...

that is precisely why I trust that we could live together.

I may think thee a strange creature,

...living with me.

Her voice was ice-like— chilling and translucent.

...beau- tiful.

Kiss-Shot was...

...

And with that voice, she tempted me.

Kiss-Shot.

I'm glad you were the one to come meet me.

And I'm not being sarcastic or snide here.

Okay?

...I would have spent years— maybe centuries...

If at this mo- ment ...

...stuck on some journey chasing after her. I'm pretty sure of that.

...Kiss-Shot had gone off somewhere instead of sticking with me...

Both chasing after her *while eating nothing*,

and chasing after her while eating—would have been impossible.

The problem in that case... would be my diet during that time.

But that on its own... would be fine.

It would be a duty that I brought upon myself.

Now I see what Drama-turgy meant.

Nguyen.

His lover ...

You— will come to under-stand.

Young man.

I bet she was a kind vampire.

The only way she could survive was to eat the very villagers she loved.

It was a living hell more painful than any form of torture.

Thank you for saving me.

But...

she—is different.

Someone only capable of seeing humans as nothing more than food.

A demon.

She's nothing but a monster on the inside.

No matter how beautiful her form... her voice...

Kiss-Shot...

I didn't know anything back then.

Dost thou speak of...

...mine eating of humans?

Hadst thou known— wouldst thou have abandoned me, leaving me for dead?

No.

I'm talking about how I was keeping myself from looking at the facts all this time.

That's what I mean.

Back then, I didn't know anything— about myself.

...until I saw one of those sacrifices in the flesh.

But I'd run away from facing that fact...

I'd already come to terms with the fact that someone was going to get eaten.

That I saved a vampire meant —

While my actions may have been beautiful,

I was neither beautiful nor right.

Hah.

Those were the words...

...I wished to hear from thee.

I thought thou might speakest so.

ZAKK

I thought thee to be such a fellow.

I would have left this country already had I not.

They are why I have come here.

ZAKK

Thou wouldst have no interest in me once I became whole and perfect.

I had known...

...thy kindness would only last...

...whilst I was weak.

'Twas not because of who I am.

Thou wouldst have saved anyone—so long as they were weak.

You would save anyone, Araragi.

Right?

TWITCH

?!!

I thought it might turn out like this.

And so, aye—

...was that?

What ...

?!

Huh?

Lowii upper pitcher

Incidentally,

wert thou aware? That I saved thee—*as thyself.*

GULP

...

...by my hands.

deserved better than death...

A heroic soul ready to cast away his own life for my sake—

...to end it.

I had...

GCCHT

GRRRRIP

...needed to defeat her here and put a permanent end to this.

This—was the perfect opportunity.

She had come to me.

I...

This was so sudden, you know...?

I didn't have— a single strategy in mind...!!

What should I do?

Hm?

Lowii

ZSSHT

TWITCH

!!!

...
...
Mh!

VA-VOOOM

My heart and mind remain un-shaken ...!!

But— I'm fine.

And even more than I expected them to...!!

They shook ...

I knew it.

Do these sacks weigh on thy mind?

...What?

?

Now, touch them.

Thank you...

...Hanekawa !!!

TWITCH

YODELAY-HEEHOO!

KRAK

GRAKK

SNAP SNAP SNAP SNAP

I'd let thee touch these to thy heart's content if they are enough to satisfy thee.

Thine efforts have earned thee as much, after all.

Ow!

Graah! That hurts!

Gah!

Come now.

Draw nearer.

BOOM

SGWISH

SBLOTCH

Lest I'm mistaken, thou art 17 years of age?

...

Baah-baah-booo... ♡

Still a time when one longs for their mother's teat, then.

...

BTT

[Puff-Puff]

1. A phrase representing the sound or appearance of being squeezed between soft objects.
2. The name of an ability or action that appears in games, particularly the *Dragon Quest* series.
3. A rewarding act given by women to men. [In the manga *Dragon Ball*, actions performed upon Master Roshi.]

Knowing it would come to this, I should have groped your breasts...

I'm sorry, Hane-kawa...!

And in this form, of all things...

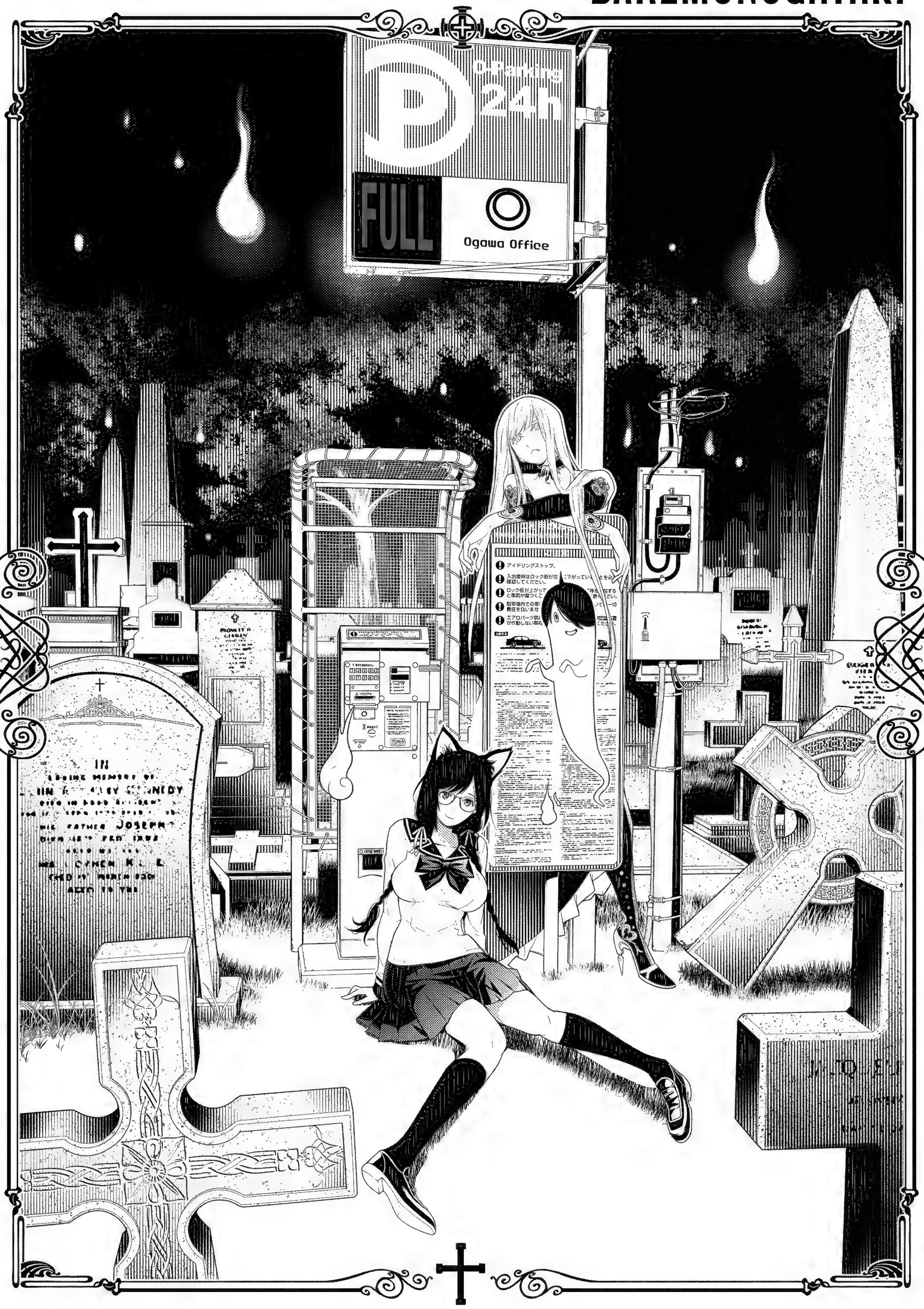
To think that my first time touching a woman's chest...

...would be a surprise... *puff-puff*.

...that it'd make sense to get a mulligan on this one...!

Then again, I could only hope...

BAKEMONOGATARI



'Tis a rarity for one of my class.

But now, I face the most powerful of all the foes I have ever fought.

An opportunity to truly engage myself.

Aye.

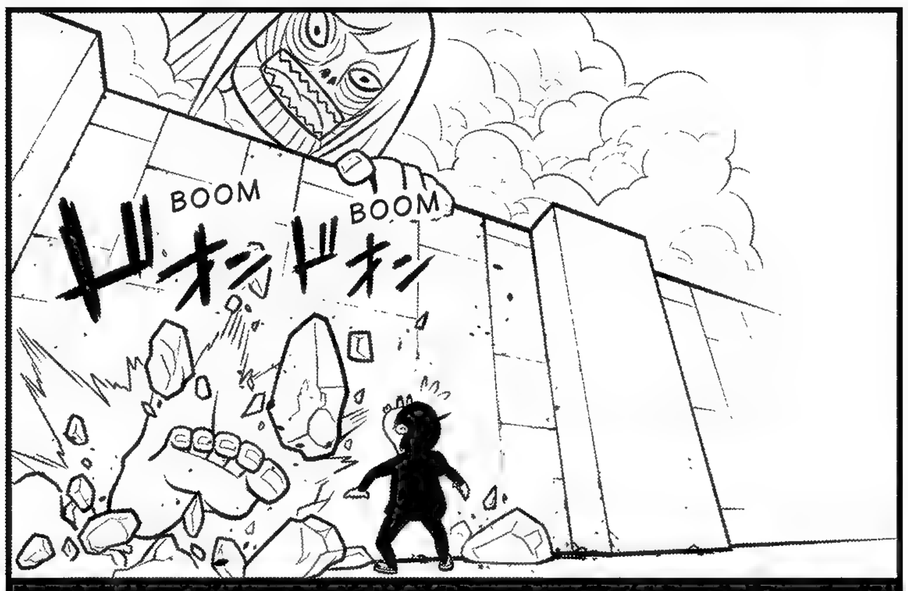
It is that which brings me joy.

There is no need for me to hold back.

PROHIBITED ACTS

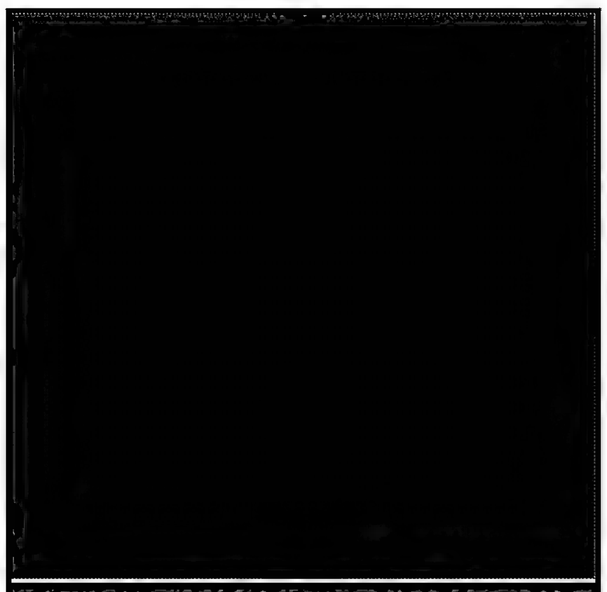
No turning into mist

No flying



No transforming

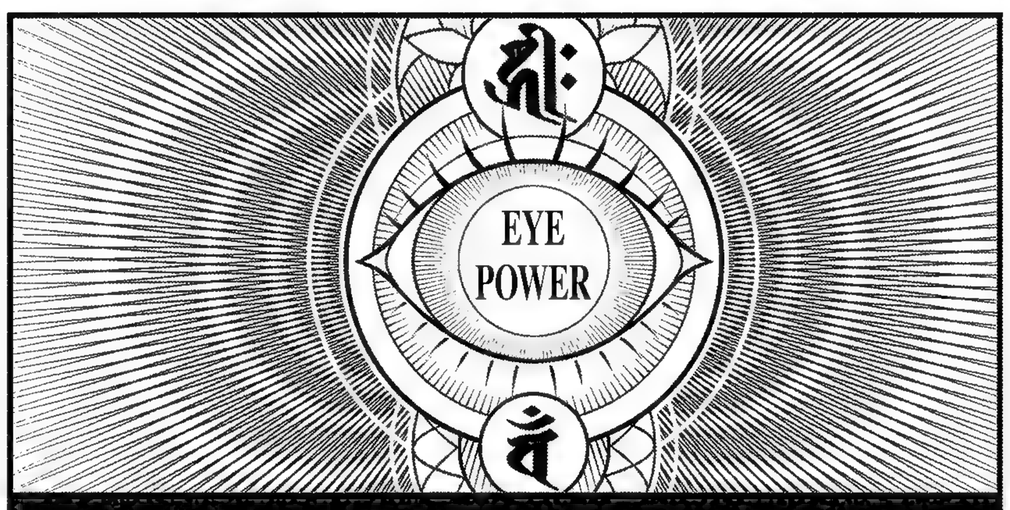
No disappearing



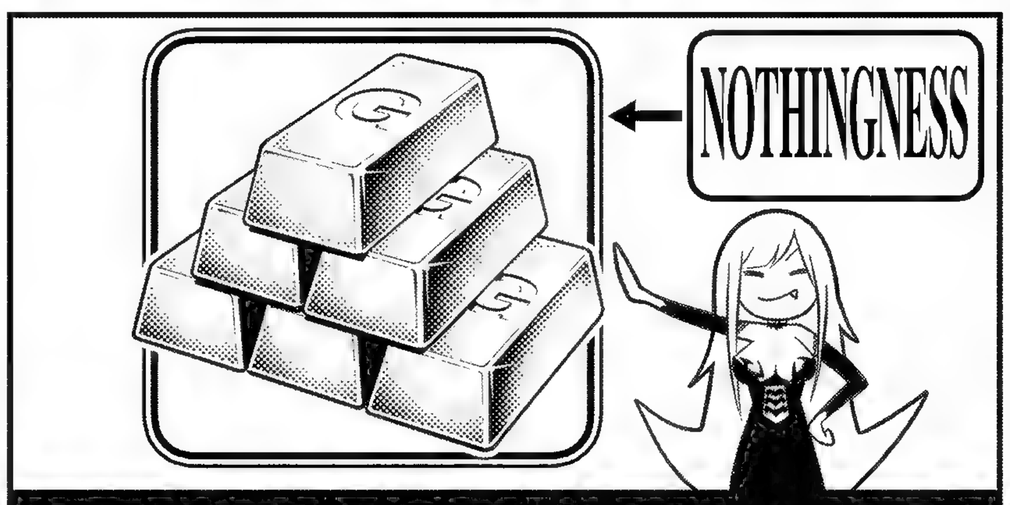
No turning into darkness

But—while I say this, I shall *give* thee a handicap.

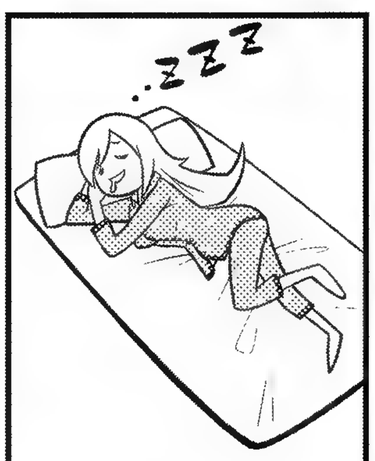
None of those other, numerous vampire skills either



No using eye powers



No generating matter



No sleeping

Lest this bout be over before I was engaged.

What was it that boy liked to say...? Ah, yes, "a fifty-fifty fight."

While I will be killing thee with malice and enmity— I'll give thee, ah...

THWAP

SPLATCH

BOOM

'Tis a game.

NNNN-
NGH...

ZWOPP

THWOK

POW

THOK

THOK

ゴン

ゴン

ドド

S
G
R
A
A
A
S
H

I now...

...am in better condition than I have ever been in these past 500 years.

I will have thee know.

KRAK

KRAK

YOU MUST REALLY BE BORED.

POP

Is it not, ser-vant ?!

Splendid! This is it! This is the thrill of two vampires fighting to the death!

Haaah!

Ha ha ha

ha ha ha

Others taste bad.

Some taste good.

HISSSS

...to hear that from you, too.

I wanted ...

HISSS

I NEED
YOU
TO DIE,
MASTER
!!!!

PRE-
PARE
TO
DIE,
SERVANT.
!!!

THWAK

Kiss-
Shot.

At the
end
of the
day...

...it
turns
out
I'm
human.

AHAHAHA-
HAAHAHA!

I want to believe him.

—That's what Oshino said.

"So long as you hold yourself as a person, you are a person."

SPLAT

Ah!

SPLAT

SNAP

SNAP

KRAK KRAK

GRRK

HYAAGH

SPLAP

SBLATT

BA-KROK

BLOKK

KRAK

SNAP SNAP

THWOOM

THWOOM

SPLAT

KRAK

SPLURCH

SNAP

KRAK

KRAKK

SPLAT

SPLAT

THWOKK

トドドドドド

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

BA-KLANG

How to kill a monster.

How to rid the world of a monster.

In truth— we both understood.

But we both knew.

We used every bit of strength we had to continue the devastation.

It was as if someone had bound us together, guiding us toward one another and our mutual destruction.

We would go until her immortality or mine gave out. If not, we'd go until her spirit or mine broke.

Our fight went nowhere.

Hee.

She looked at me.

HAHA

...from the smile she wore yester-day.

And the smile on her face was different...

Hideyuki Kikuchi
菊地秀行

KOYOMIvamp 14

語 gatari

物 *mono*

焼 *gatari*

化 *bake*

Hah.

What are you, a mas-ochist?!

More! Bring more destruction upon my body!

Aye, excellent!!! What taste and under-standing!! I would expect no less of my servant!

HA

BLURP

BOOM

I SHAN'T DENY THE CHARGE!!

SCREEE

BOOF

BA-KRAAASH

...Why would I want to become a legend?

Just the thought of someone I've never met knowing my name creeps me out.

KOFF KOFF

'Tis a pity.

KRAK

Perhaps thou couldst have become a legend like me.

Hah.

I whole-heartedly agree with thee.

?!

A dozen in one year. But 6,000 humans in 500 long years.

Servant.

Eating one human is enough to sate me for a month.

FLAP

FLAP

FLAP

Billions of humans who work to devour every last living creature.

'Tis clear who poses the greater threat to this planet.

I am by no means some threat to the world.

Surely the hunger of man is far more ravenous.

ZSH

That's not the problem, Kiss-Shot.

BWOOF

KRAASH

KRAK

KRING

KRAK

If we are to speak of what is right to eat and what is not,

such standards even differ from human to human.

Thou shalt not eat cow.
Thou shalt not eat pig.
Thou shalt not eat whale.
Thou shalt not eat dog.

And yet...

And yet, thou insist that I die because I eat humans?

ZBLATT

THWAK

PTT

...what Kiss-Shot was trying to say.

I under-stood...

That's right.

ZSSHH

Yeah.

THUDUDUDUD

DUM DUM

But the thing is...

...I'm human, Kiss-Shot.

She was trying to do some-thing ...

...to save my life.

I see.

HISSSS ...

KRAASH

KRAKL

KRAKL

I—am a vampire.

...just to be sure...

It was as if she were telling herself...

She didn't meet my eyes.

HOLD ON A SEC-OND !!!!

ARA-RAGI !!!

BLUP

SOME-THING'S— OFF.

SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT HERE!!

...is That
you something
!!!! ...

A-RA-RA-GI!

It doesn't matter, just hide!

Hanekawa!

How many times did I say to stay quiet?!

Do you have no sense of fear?!

Get as far away as you can from here!

Hurry !

It doesn't matter!! Just run!

THIS —

NO! LISTEN TO ME, PLEASE ?!

...hugely important...!!

...overlooking something...

I think we're still...

For a while now— something's been... all wrong.

Araragi...

Huh?

Overlooking something...?

There's no way—

Still? Even now...?

This isn't thy place to speak, ration!!!

Hanek ...!

SGRRRCH

...only for thee to get carried away!

I ignored thee as thou servedst a purpose ...

?!

TWITCH

Wait... What?

Did Kiss-Shot just get... *flustered*?

BWOOM

HMPH

KLONK

BAM

BLOP

KRASH

RATTLE RATTLE

ZAKK

BA-BOOM

Miss Heart-Under-Blade!

Could you be—

BLUP

BLUP

BLUP

THWMP

THWMP

THWMP

?!

ビッ

TWITCH

You...!

PSSHT

SGRRRCH

Stay out of this, lowly ration!

An opening.

BANG

Something that would have never appeared had we simply kept breaking each other apart—

an opening.

In any case, do be careful not to let him suck thy blood.

Vampires who have their blood sucked by another vampire will see their very existence wrung dry.

Yeah, I'll be careful ...

...how to kill you.

Kiss-Shot— you told me...

...What exactly are you doing?

Aaahh...

I wasn't alone.

And...

...I realized something.

Hane-kawa...

NO, THANK YOU!

HEH HEH HEH.

...I met Hane-kawa.

During this...

...hell of a spring break...

I made a friend.

It's okay.

...right here.

You're...

Look.

In truth, for a long, long time now. That's what I've always wanted.

And I never would be again.

Ever.

You eat humans, so you must die.

Which is why I say to you...

KRZZCH

Ah...

And so...

Kiss-Shot—I'm human.

...will kill you.

I...

SPLAT

Bakemonogatari 14

Kaa

FLAIL

FLAIL

Haa

FLAIL

Kah—

...

Ka-kaah!

Hah!

...

Hah...

Ha

Ha Ha ha

Ha

Ha

Ha

Ha ha

Ha

Aha!
Ah!
Ah!
Ah!
Hah!
Ha
ha!
Haha-
haha!
Kiss-Shot's—
blood.
I guess that's fine, too.
Laughing as she dies, huh.
To a vampire, it is nothing less...
...than their very existence.
The blood of a vampire.

It was Kiss-Shot herself— who taught me this.

If a vampire has their blood sucked by another vampire...

...their very existence —

vanishes.

This blood ...

...could be called the story...

...of the aberration known as Kiss-Shot Acerola-Orion Heart-Under-Blade.

You know what aberrations are, Araragi?

They're something that can even be born from graffiti you'd find in a toilet stall.

When was it—that Oshino told me?

Hanako-san is coming

TAKOCHIN

HANAPON

LOOK TO THE LEFT

You're an idiot if you looked

Aberrations *exist everywhere*, and they *exist nowhere.*

That's how indistinct they are as existences. And so—

it's only because someone *recognizes one*...

Hanako-san is coming

...exists—there.

...that an aberration...

Kiss-Shot's blood is a *record of recog-nition...*

...from the 6,000 humans who knew her—

all the people she ingested as her "food."

...written in blood.

A story...

...she would disappear.

If she were to lose it...

It would be as if...

...she never even existed in the first place.

—What?

KRAKL

And then...

And then... it suddenly came to me.

And then...

What did Hane-kawa—just say to me?

Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha

There's something we're overlook-ing...

That's what she said.

...hug impor ant..

I think we're still...

Araragi ...

For a while now—some-thing's been...

Wait, no. From the very start—

...become so flustered that she even gave me an opening?

That's right.

Why did Kiss-Shot ...

...but you intend to turn him back into a human.

You made Araragi your thrall...

I gotta say, I like how you *do* things, Heart-Under-Blade.

—Right? ♡

Hmmm ...?!

...Hm?

Hold on...

—What is the matter, servant? I still have nearly half of my blood left.

I shan't give thee another opportunity like this one.

While I may not be able to move for now,

I will recover in no time unless thou makest haste.

How ...

Hey— Kiss-Shot.

H...

...if this really is my only option.

The logic— doesn't add up...

...

It's strange.

...were you going to turn me back into a human?

TCH

Why is it that you came here?

I—also have a question for you.

Isn't that...

...why?

You planned to have Araragi kill you from the very beginning.

Then could you please tell me how you were planning on turning Araragi back into a human?

I looked it up— but I couldn't find any other way of turning a vampire back.

On what grounds dost thou dare—

That's enough foolishness from thee, ration.

Hmph.

...

ZAKK

!

It does concern me.

...concern thee in any way?

How does this...

HOW WEIGHTY !

Araragi is a true friend to me, someone I'm obligated to save, even if I have to risk my life.

'Twas a lie I told, as I needed to make him work for me.

That's not true.

I never intended to turn this servant of mine back into a human.

Hah.

Miss Heart-Under-Blade...

You had Araragi gather your missing parts— *not for your sake,*

but for Araragi's sake... didn't you?

...What?!

It seemed to have some sort of value within their society.

...in order to use your body for some other purpose.

Those men who stole your limbs had come from distant lands...

...and it would then be impossible to ever fully recover them.

Had they been able to return, your body parts would eventually be sliced into pieces, divided up...

That would also mean you could never return Araragi to being human.

In other words, your existence would continue to remain in this world.

That—is what you feared.

You stay quiet, Araragi!

ZING

Wait, Hane-kawa.

Then could you please explain why you came here?!

F-Fool! It was nothing of the sort!

...

Araragi had a reason he needed to fight you.

—But you didn't have anything, did you? Despite that stuff about fighting with everything you had—

and all those other forced explanations of yours.

...then why didn't you kill me back there?

I'm already convinced of it—if that was your only reason...

It's because Araragi needs a place he can call his own once he's human again—

Isn't it?

All I can do— is slice through flesh and send guts flying.

That part of Hanekawa — isn't something I have.

...didn't understand a thing. The situation had over-whelmed me.

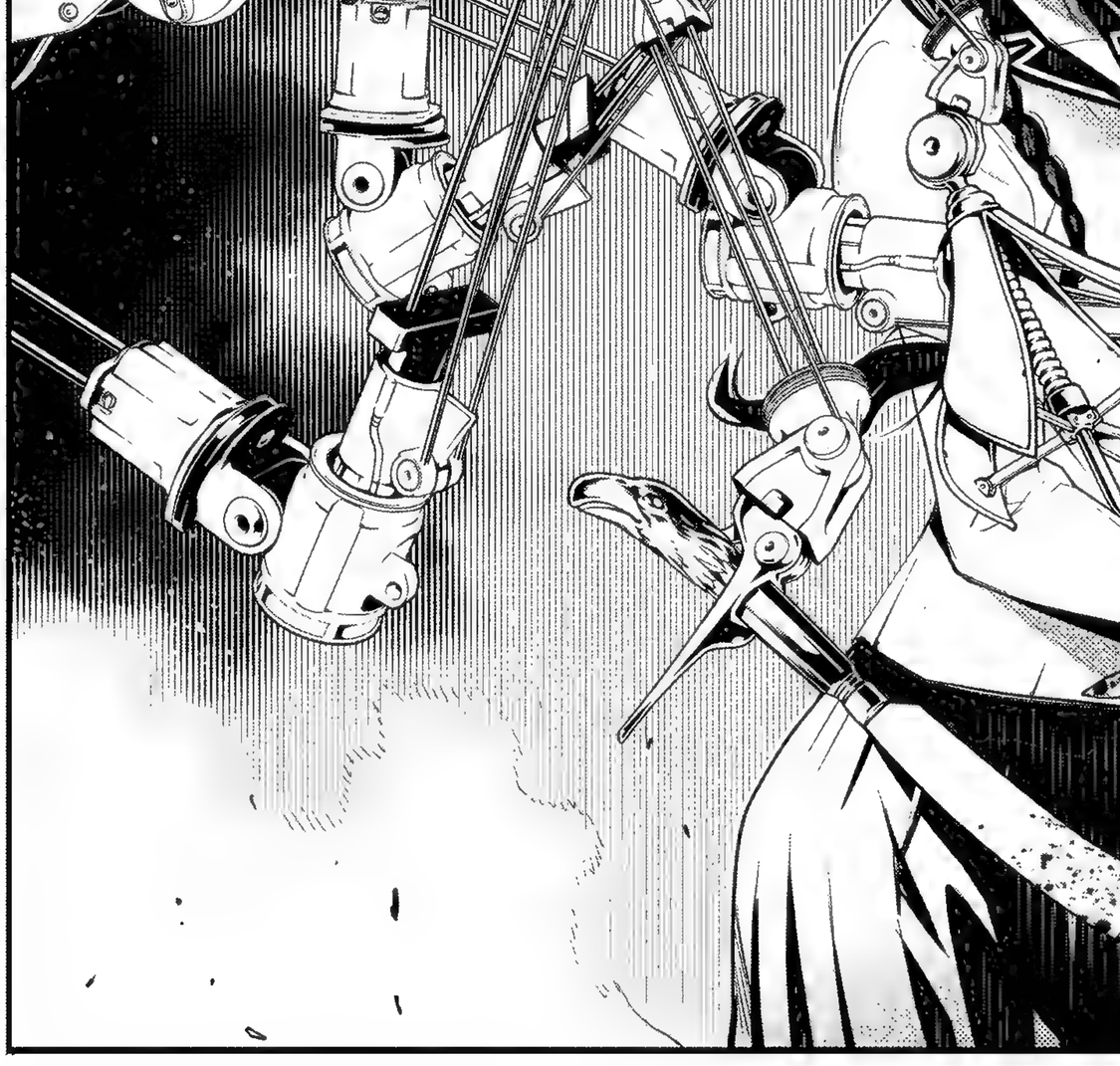
I...

...

Her ability to fight— is different from mine.

KLIK KLIK KLIK KLIK

KLIK KLIK KLIK KLIK KLIK KLIK



Read her like a book. Not just every word and phrase but even the spaces between the lines—stripping her completely bare to the point of near-cruelty...

She'd broken Kiss-Shot's existence down into pieces.

HOW DARE A LOWLY HUMAN PROUDLY PRETEND TO SUCH KNOWL-EDGE!

THEN THOU SHALT WAIT AND SEE!! ONCE I RECOVER, I'LL SEND THY HEAD FLYING WITH BUT A SINGLE STRAND OF MY HAIR!

TH...

I don't know everything.

I just know what I know.

What is your real goal?

So please, I want you to enlighten me.

I'm human as well.

I also have the right to fight you.

Equally matched in the boobs department...

HUMANITY VS. ABERRATIONS: THE ULTIMATE SHOWDOWN

Uhh...

...Could I be witness-ing...

...something kind of incredible here?

If only I could be the one to despise...

...and be slain by thee thusly.

My servant,

if only I could have simply been—the villain.

Ah...

...

Hast thou lived for 500 years?

Ration.

How clever thou must think thyself... Believing thou hast discerned my intentions.

How couldst thou understand?

Bore-dom...

...seeps into the bones.

It rots the heart and mind from their very roots.

...

I...

...as a result of boredom.

...I certainly can't say I've ever felt distressed...

...came to this country...searching for a place to die.

Bore-dom is a killer — of vam-pires.

Bore-dom is a killer of man— no...

A common reason—one accounting for nine-tenths of vampire deaths.

Nihon-bashi

Even this country...

...has changed quite a bit after 400 years.

Fifty-Three Stations of the Tokaido

Nihon-bashi

But I suppose the same could be said of myself— I was young then, in my prime in both body and mind.

Perhaps around the age of 20, wert thou to put it in human years.

Bored already, yes, but I still possessed that which thou wouldst call hopes, dreams, and curiosity.

SH

SH

SHK

SHK

WHRRRRRRR

SHK

SH

SHK

SHK

I was at the South Pole.

SHBOOOM

ZWSH

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

I'd grown quite tired of living in the most frigid lands of the south.

From those lands, I haphazardly took a great leap and just so happened to land—in this country.

It seems the area happened to have been visited by a terrible drought that year.

When I descended into the lake, it was sent flying by the impact. The water turned to rain that poured down on the region.

Well, I say land—but I arrived in *water*.

I had performed a *miracle*—I had made it rain.

While it was not my intention to do so,

There are customs around the world that see snakes as the embodiment of water gods... and this country was no different.

—I imagine it was the result of my complexion and the direction from whence I came...

But they named my dwelling to mean something along the lines of..."the shrine of the white snake who came north."

That is where they revered me as a god.

I can see it from here—but thou canst not, I suppose.

'Twas the summit of yonder mountain.

White snake. *Shira-hebi.*

…

Of course, back then—

I had no way of knowing about that shrine.

But everything—must have been connected.

It must be connected. That place I became so deeply involved with when I was handling the incident with Nadeko Sengoku—

Kita-Shirahebi Shrine.

BOM
BOM
BWANG
BWANG
BWANG
BWANG
THUM
BWANG
BWANG
PWOOOORR
HWRRRRR
Fnagh ?
Mh.
THUM
BWANG
BWANG
BWANG
BWANG
BWANG
BWANG
HWRRRRR
THUM
DOKK
DOKK
BOM
BOM
HWRRRRR

BOM

ヒョオオオッ

HWEEHRRRR

THUM

BWANG

BWANG

BWANG

BWANG

BWANG

KLINK

With your permission to speak, I present myself— Head of the *Onmyo-ryo*, Seishiro Shishirui.

GRRK

FWOOSH

Very well.

Let us depart once more.

SST

O holy one.

It is time to carry out your duty.

Let us hunt mon-sters.

CHNK

Going on as he did about— a god's duties and what-not.

Forcing me to slave away and rid the land of mon-sters.

What a pomp-ous man he was.

Not that I found it un-pleas-ant, though.

To me, it was what a human may describe as "like a game."

All experts in the field of aberrations.

He always had his horde of followers with him.

—Not that I had any interest in his status or the like.

began to re-assess hu-mans.

Still, for the first time, I ever-so-slightly —

FLICK

Every last human who showed themselves to me in that time had come for the most trivial of reasons.

A century had passed before that.

All of them as dull as could be...

POP

'Twas nothing more than a way to kill time, of course.

Kita-Shirahebi Shrine Worshippers

Just a hint of spice in my dull life as a vampire.

FIDGET

I DO WONDER IF HE'LL VISIT ME TODAY!

AHH, HOW BORED I AM!

FIDGET

SLUMP

He never came.

...

HMM HMM HMM

BORED, SO BORED!

FLAP FLAP FLAP

HOW I'D LOVE TO HURRY UP AND SLAUGHTER SOME FILTHY MONSTERS!

Yes, I see.

Hmm, okay.

LEEEAN

This life as a god— did not continue for long.

But of course.

Please, keep going. More!

Oh, nothing.

... What is it?

I— am a mon-ster.

For I am no god.

BAKEMONOGATARI
14

14

BakeMonogaTari

Hold on a second.

Aye.

He was still a human during all of this—right?

This, uh... Seishiro Shishirui guy?

There's something I want to get straight here.

Acquiring it took little time at all.

Even my mind worked quite swiftly in those prime years of mine.

It was from him that I learned the tongue of this country.

Or "braided big-boobie class president."

Such as "*moe*."

And now I learn modern words of this land from thee.

NOW HURRY UP AND GO BACK TO TELLING YOUR STORY, YOU DAMNED VAMPIRE!

...

I-I-I DON'T REMEMBER EVER TEACHING YOU THAT ONE!!!

...

Very well.

Now let me speak of him.

I am a customer here!

Drinks!

Give me more!

Girl!

SKLANG

For a human,

his strength was on a different level.

KLANK

but I might suffer a solitary wound.

...perhaps he would not slay me,

well ...

Even if I were to fight him—

I've all of you to thank. Excellent work.

Phew.

!!

SMILE

At times...

...

...he had quite the youthful countenance.

Yeah!

BWA-BWANG

ベベん。

I...

...slowly began to sense—a calamity.

A year or so later.

...was clearly waning.

村

Villagers

The number of villagers who came to me...

Nobody... again.

GRR

GRR

As I was in peak condition in those days,

I could even withstand the sun's rays.

FIDGET

FIDGET

SQUEEZE

SQUEEZE

RUB

RUB

It burned me, yes, but my skin would regenerate the moment it did.

WHA ?!!

I'M SOOOOOO BOOORED

FLAP

FLAP

FLAP

FLAP

Though I imagine there has never been a vampire in existence as atypical as I.

I felt no more than prickles upon my flesh.

Nobody again!

Nobody again.

What sorrowful yet beautiful music. Thy skill with a flute is also most impressive.

...!!

...No, I do not believe that could be true.

Please. Continue.

—This is a hayashi piece. A musical accompaniment. If it sounds sorrowful to you...then I have allowed my inner thoughts to color it...

O holy one. Would ye return to the village?

Not that I mind.

I was most surprised to find him alone.

What with all the followers he always dragged around with him.

What is the matter today?

Thou art not donning thy usual armor.

I cannot use it alone. I need the others.

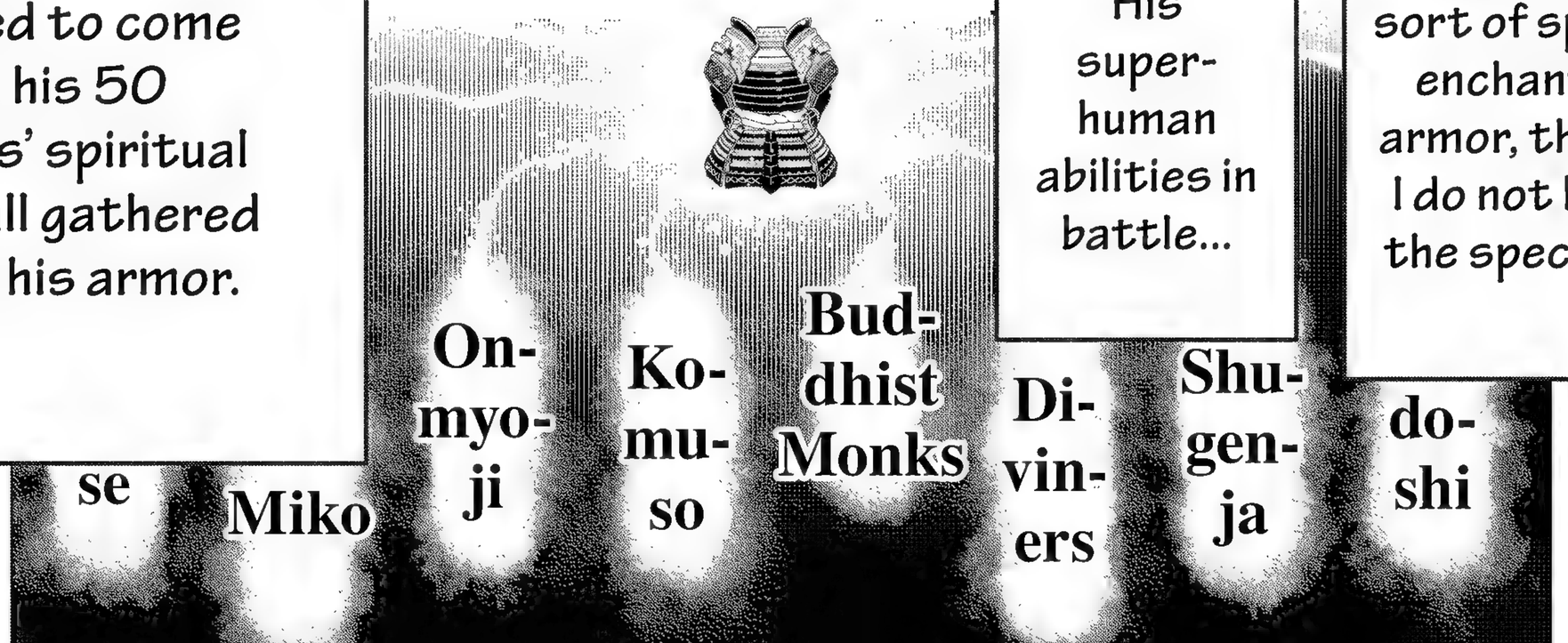
...is heavy.

That armor...

...seemed to come from his 50 followers' spiritual energy, all gathered there in his armor.

His super-human abilities in battle...

It must have been some sort of special enchanted armor, though I do not know the specifics.



O divine one.

Have ye noticed yet?

...and again I was surprised.

We returned to the village...

Every human had disappeared from the village...

...without leaving so much as a trace.

There is not a person here.

The people had disappeared, not just from this village but also from all the surrounding villages.

—But it was for naught. We could not find a single clue.

We considered and investigated every possibility.

—Every one of them.

Even his 50 followers.

DRIBBLE

DRIBBLE

DRIBBLE

Spirited away.

What good am I?!

So piti-ful!

Piti-ful!

He must have been terribly upset by his own powerless-ness.

He had given himself over to depression —

IT IS WHAT THOU MIGHTST CALL "GAP MOE"!!

AGAIN, I NEVER TAUGHT YOU THAT TERM!!

FLASH

YET I FOUND MYSELF DRIVEN UTTERLY MAD BY HIS ADORABLE STATE.

?!

AAAA-AAAAAA-AAGH!!

In thy case, it is the bespectacled class president that—

...

It

sud-
denly

ap-
peared.

Was it an *aberration*? A natural phenomenon? *It* was *something*— but I hadn't the slightest idea what.

I still *do not* know...

...what *it* was.

I simply stared at it, my mind vacant.

The two of us...

It must have been beyond his understanding as well.

...that *it* was the force behind the spir-itings away.

...re-alized all too late...

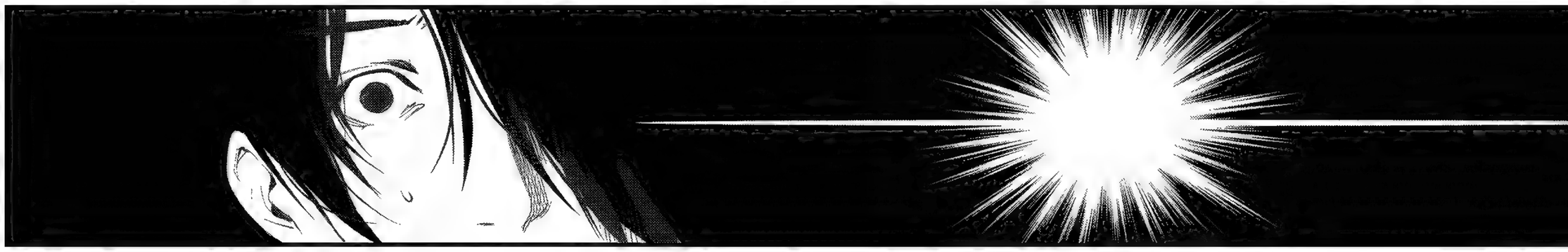
Aye.

All too late— how could I describe it any other way.

By the time we realized...

...only a quarter of my body remained.

As for him...



...he was nothing but a hand.

BOOM

I with-drew.

TWING

Leaping—to the southern edge of this world.

SGRRK KRRK KRRK

ZSSSHHH

I've never once fled in my life.

No, no. I did not flee.

I wanted but a mo-ment.

A moment to restore my consumed flesh and prepare myself for battle.

BA-GRAKK

BOOOM

THOOM

SCREEEAK

KRAKL KRAKL KRAKL

KRRK KRRK KRRK KRRK

I may have even been excited— as I'd been starved of powerful foes.

But by no means did I fear *it*.

I may not have known what *it* was.

...

I remained there in that state for upwards of a month.

But perhaps this was not something that followed or fought.

But—

it did not follow.

*See the *ONIMONOGATARI: Demon Tale* novel.

...

To do so would be dangerous so long as I did not know its identity.*

And more than anything ...

In any case, that is how I left this country...

...never to return.

...to return.

...I'd lost any reason...

'Twas some-thing I'd not felt in—a cen-tury.

Some-thing I'd long forgot-ten— aye.

The feeling of soli-tude.

That I'd been left all alone.

That I'd lost— every-thing.

SNAP

KRAKL

SHHNK

SPLASH

KRAK

KRAKL

KRAKL

KRAKL

GROOOAR

ZWWM ZWWM

ZWWM ZWWM

BA-KRAK

BA-KRAK

My dormant instincts must have been awakened by the impending threat of death.

'Tis known as the suspension-bridge effect, no?

Elsa ?

Restoring him as a vampire was but a simple task.

A single hand is all a vampire of my ability needs.

Though it may have been my first time doing so— I knew how to create a thrall.

Thou art able to handle any situation once thou becomes an existence on my level. I never before felt like creating any thralls because my life had never before been in any sort of danger. 'Twas nothing as emotional as love or romance that drove me to this, merely an impulsive, contemptible thing. Thou wouldst be more than mistaken to expect any sort of human motive behind my actions.

But do not be mistaken.

...

POP
POP
POP
POP

FWOOF

!!

Mon-
ster
!!!

How
darest
thou
deceive
us!!!

I imagine that even my men fell prey to thy filthy hands!!

Eating us one by one whenever hunger struck!

Posing as a god to cause me and the villagers to lower our guard!

So it was all thy doing!!

I even revered it as a god...

Aah ...!

I was unable to discern a monster when one stood before me.

...

The heavens have punished me.

Kneel before me, monster, for I will slay thee!!!

THWAP

What kind of nonsense art thou allowing out of thy mouth?

Go and cool thy head.

...

GA-KRAAASH

He was correct to say that I had deceived him.

No.

...he remained mistaken.

But ...

I am a demon.

However I may try to keep up appearances, in the end— I eat humans.

"Look at what I've granted thee!" Those were my thoughts at the time.

"Not only have I resurrected thee, I've made thee my thrall, one with immense power—"

But I believed otherwise back then.

I tried to speak with him again and again.

GA-KRAAASH

I remained as calm as possible.

But...

...he left.

Yet...

BOOM

...once he grew hungry ...

SPLOOOSH

CHOMP

CHOMP

CHOMP

CHOMPP

He could not help but return to eat me.

GRIND
RIP
RIP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
POWKK
GRIND
MUNCH
MUNCH
SPLAT
SPLAT

I always allowed him to eat as he wished.

He so obstinately refused to eat humans,

and I could not summon an interest in traveling to a populated land.

SQUEEZE

BA-KRAK

SPLAT

THOK

ROLL ROLL ROLL

ゴロ ゴロ ゴロ

My wounds healed slower... and the light of the sun began to burn my body.

As he continued to eat me,

I grew weaker and weaker.

...

HOOOWL

GSSHT

GSSHT

RATTLE

RATTLE

RATTLE

RATTLE

KRAKL

KRAKL

KRAKL

BAKEMONOGATARI

...it was that he chose death only a few short years after becoming a vampire.

You know...

... I'd been wondering about that...

Haven't you felt hungry at all lately?

Oh, right, Araragi. It's been about two weeks now since you became a vampire, right?

...was able to live for years...

So that made me wonder how her first thrall—Seishiro Shishirui...

Vampires have to eat a human every two weeks—every month if they really hold it in.

It was by eating me that he was able to maintain some sense of himself as a human.

Were I to visit a village with him, I'm sure he'd be unable to defy his vampire instincts.

He would have eaten humans.

It couldn't last— for long.

But this was no different from an octopus eating its own leg.

From the point of view of an expert on aberrations— surely it would have been the perfect moment to slay me.

I'd never been weaker in my life than I was then.

ZSSHT

GSSHRK

GSSHRK

GSSHRK

TWITCH

TWITCH

The "Aber-ration Slayer"— the enchanted blade Kokoro-watari.

he'd lost the only artifact capable of cutting me down.

But when he came here,

THUNK

KLANK

KLATTER

KLATTER

SZZZZ

It took him years, but he created a replica of Kokorowatari.

Repeating the process— hundreds, thousands of times.

And so he continued to burn his bones and flesh, forging them time and time again.

The only reason he clung to life to the point of eating me...

...to complete this blade.

...was in order...

After all...

...the two of us had all the time in the world— did we not?

Time would eventually solve all problems —

that is what I believed.

He was confused, merely agitated.

...I could not see him for who he was then.

But even after all this...

Perfect timing for a distraction, I suppose.

Finally managed to come up with a way to give me a proper fight, hast thou?

Hah.

ZSST.

KA-SHIIING

?!

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?!

HAST THOU NOT FORGED THIS BLADE IN ORDER TO CUT ME DOWN?!

HAST THOU NOT COME HERE TO SETTLE THY GRUDGE?!

Thou art weak.

SNAP

Eh?

PA-KRAKK

That blade is a parting gift from me.

Use it as thou wisht.

For thou wilt meet a quick death without it.

SHINE

SIZZZ

...mon-sters are.

How dull...

BWOOF

KRAKL

KRAKL

KRAKL

AGH !!

BAM

Even my reason to go on living.

My humanity.

My com-rades.

I've lost my ances-tral duty.

Live in this hell.

Suffer for all of eternity, writhing in solitude.

LEST I CUT THEE DOWN!

RE-TURN!

RETURN TO ME!

SNATCH

SEISHIROOO...!!!!

P
FULL
HOOONK
KLANG
KLANG
KLANG
KLANG
KLANG

Miss Heart-Under-Blade—

...you understand, don't you?

Deep down...

...was save you.

that what Mister Seishiro did...

So before the two of you starved to death together— he decided for himself...

you— wouldn't eat them either.

As long as he kept refusing to eat humans,

I plan to use the lessons I learned then this time around.

At that time, I was in fact unable to turn him back into a human.

Hmm...

Speaking of which—didn't your first thrall ever say that he wanted to turn back into a human?

Hmph.

—Right.

She said—she couldn't turn him back into a human.

Kiss-Shot... did say that.

I was unable to die for his sake—unable to die for another.

And so...

...for thy sake.

...I shall die...

I shall have thee kill me, restoring thy humanity...

...whilst dying at last.

I decided I would die for the sake of my servant.

...

...

For...

...my sake.

But at last...

I'd wandered aimlessly— for 400 years.

...I've discovered— a place to die.

Back then...

...I went and saved Kiss-Shot.

And that's why...

...she's going to die for my sake...?

I...!

Then... I...

Aye.

Hah.

DRIP

How poor I am...

...at creating thralls.

I love thee.

Farewell, Kiss-Shot.

Damn you all.

GROOOAR

ゴ ㅏ ㅏ ㅏ ㅏ

ギ ィ ィ ィ

SKREEE

ィ ィ ィ…

Such crybabies my servants are.

How pitiful.

Continued in Volume 15

Next Volume Preview
BAKEMONOGATARI 15
Koyomi defeats Kiss-Shot and learns of her intentions.
Come. Come. Come.

BAKEMONOGATARI (manga) 14

Kodansha Digital Edition

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